



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

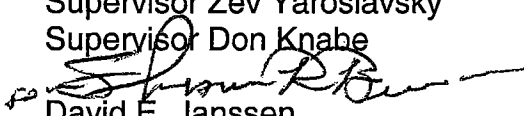
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

June 21, 2001

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
From:   
David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Budget Conference Committee Report No. 7**

June 20, 2001. The Conference Committee voted 4-2 to support \$30 million for trauma care and \$5 million for trauma system planning. Senator Ackerman and Assembly Member Runner voted no.

June 19, 2001. The Conference Committee resumed at about 10:00 a.m. and started to work through the Open Items beginning with page one of the Agenda. They made progress closing out a number of items. Among the items resolved was \$2.5 million in funding for the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park. This was half of the \$5 million requested, but its approval should be viewed positively considering the overall condition of the State Budget and the fact that Assembly funding for the Breed Street Shul (\$1 million), and Ascot Park (\$2.8 million) in Los Angeles was eliminated.

The Conference Committee adjourned about noon, and resumed just before 9:00 p.m. Once again, there was a lengthy discussion between Democratic and Republican conferees about how a larger reserve in the neighborhood of \$2.5 billion to \$3.0 billion could be reconciled with what appears to be a number of competing goals: (1) maintaining the State's one-quarter cent Sales Tax reduction for six months which would cost approximately \$600 million; (2) further reductions in K-14 education above the proposed \$500 million; and (3) reductions in ongoing State and Federal program requirements for health and human services.

After the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Legislative Analyst opined that a higher reserve could not be accomplished without statutory reductions in base program obligations, Assembly Member Cardenas inquired whether the absence of specific proposals for reductions by the Republicans meant that they might be willing to embrace a reduction in the vehicle license fee offset. There was no clear response to this inquiry.

A significant exchange occurred between Senators Peace and Ackerman and Assembly Members Runner and Migden about the priority of the quarter-cent Sales Tax, and the prospect of sufficient Republican votes for passage of a Budget that did not include that cut. Senator Peace prefaced the question with the statement that there was absolutely no support among the Democrats for any version of a Budget that included the Sales Tax cut. Senator Ackerman's response indicated that while the issue is significant, its absence would not necessarily jeopardize the Budget's passage in his caucus. Assembly Member Runner continued to state that the Assembly Republican's highest priority is maintaining the current sales tax rate at 4.75 percent, and absent that, passage of a Budget would be in doubt.

The Conference Committee also spent a fair amount of the hearing discussing transportation issues. Among the items approved was a Conference compromise that would appropriate a total of \$41 million (instead of the Governor's proposed \$48 million) to fund capital improvements to the Pacific Surfliner Route. They also voted to augment the High-Speed Rail Authority's budget by \$1 million for environmental assessments of the proposed rail corridors. However, a number of transportation issues remain unresolved. These include: (1) the use of \$180 million in Public Transportation Account revenues to fund eligible Traffic Congestion Relief Plan (TCRP) projects; (2) the transfer of \$238 million from the TCRP to the State General Fund, which is proposed by the DOF; and (3) increased funding to co-locate the City of Los Angeles' transportation staff to the new District 7 office building, also proposed by DOF.

Senator Ackerman presented the Conferees with a Senate Republican Caucus long-term plan for transportation. The key feature of the plan would be a proposed constitutional amendment which would dedicate the Sales Tax on gasoline to transportation. The constitutional amendment would be effective commencing in FY 2006-07 and it would use the current 40-40-20 allocation among: (1) highways, (2) streets and roads and (3) transit. The Conference Committee's agenda continues to leave many of the County's major issues open.

#### **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**AB 86 (Cardenas)** extends the sunset date of the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Act) from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2007. The Act appropriated \$243.4 million to

fund local public safety programs previously included in the Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) program. The COPS program includes funding for comprehensive multi-agency juvenile justice plans for each county and includes other juvenile justice issues. Last year, your Board supported AB 1913 (Cardenas) which appropriated \$121.3 million for continued funding for the COPS program and \$121.3 million for the juvenile justice component. Consistent with your Board's continuing support of the COPS program, **our Sacramento advocates will be supporting AB 86**. On June 19, 2001, AB 86 passed out of the Senate Committee on Public Safety.

**SB 1222 (Romero)** provides a presumption to certain members of the Department of Corrections, the Youth Authority and to County Probation Officers that the term "injury" includes hernia, heart trouble, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and meningitis for workers' compensation purposes. Based on policy adopted by the Board on June 12, 2001 to oppose legislation that creates new presumptions by mandating that certain injuries, illnesses, diseases, or physical conditions an employee may develop are job-related for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement, **our Sacramento advocates will be opposing SB 1222**. The bill is currently in the Assembly Insurance Committee with no hearing date set.

#### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-supported AB 183 (Longville)**, which deletes the January 1, 2005 sunset date, making permanent the State's responsibility to pay for all costs incurred in the preparation for, and conduct of, a special election called to fill a vacancy in the office of a member of the State Senate or Assembly, or a member of the United States Congress or Senate, passed out of the Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee on June 13 and will now go to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**County-sponsored AB 229 (Wesson)**, which would conform the current 30-day time limitations for verifying signatures on county initiative petitions with the 60 days allowed for statewide initiative petitions, passed out of the Senate Elections Committee on June 12 and now goes to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported SB 304 (Karnette)**, which removes the mandatory retirement age for the Assistant Sheriff and Chief positions in the Sheriff's Department (whose primary duties are administrative) passed out of the Assembly Public Employees and Retirement Committee on June 13 and will now go to the Assembly Floor.

**County-opposed SB 424 (Burton)**, which would create a job-related presumption for workers' compensation for law enforcement personnel who have been required to wear a

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duty belt and develop injuries or impairment of the lower back, passed out of the Assembly Insurance Committee on June 13 and will now go to the Assembly Floor.

**County-opposed SB 1215 (Romero)**, which provides specified safety policy officers and park rangers in Los Angeles County with safety member retirement status was amended on June 19, 2001 to specify that the provisions would not be operative unless adopted by a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors. Based upon these amendments, the County will be withdrawing its opposition to the bill.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
IGR:md

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         All Department Heads  
         Legislative Strategist  
         Coalition of County Unions  
         California Contract Cities Association  
         Independent Cities Association  
         League of California Cities  
         City Managers Associations  
         Buddy Program Participants